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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number

101701067

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

(Column 1) (Column 2)

FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))		
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	17	minus 20 = •
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	3	minus 3 = •
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(d))		

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

SMALL ENTITY

OR

OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEES	RATE	FEES
X \$ ____ =		\$ 770.00	
X \$ ____ =			
X \$ ____ =			
+ \$ ____ =			
TOTAL		TOTAL	770.00

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

2/21/6

AMENDMENT A	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	16	Minus	** 20	=		
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	2	Minus	*** 3	=		
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))						

SMALL ENTITY

OR

OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X \$ ____ =			
X \$ ____ =			
+ \$ ____ =			
TOTAL ADD'L FEE		TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

AMENDMENT B	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	*	Minus	**	=		
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	*	Minus	***	=		
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))						

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X \$ ____ =	
X \$ ____ =	
+ \$ ____ =	
TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

AMENDMENT C	(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	*	Minus	**	=		
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	*	Minus	***	=		
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))						

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X \$ ____ =	
X \$ ____ =	
+ \$ ____ =	
TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

RATE	ADDI- TIONAL FEE
X \$ ____ =	
X \$ ____ =	
+ \$ ____ =	
TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments and suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Patent Appln. of)
TORKELSON, ET AL.) Art Unit: 1714
Serial No. 10/701,067) Examiner: Ronesi, Vickey M.
Filed: November 5, 2003)
Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING)
EXFOLIATED POLYMER-CLAY)
NANOCOMPOSITE AND)
POLYMER-CLAY)
NANO COMPOSITE PRODUCED)
THEREFROM)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 17, 2006

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Sir:

Please reconsider the rejection raised in the non-final Office Action of November 17, 2005 in view of the following remarks, and amend the application as follows.

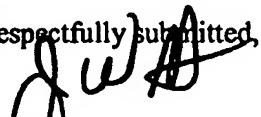
If it is determined that a petition for extension is due and/or fees are missing or inadequate, please accept this paper as a petition for extension and charge the deficient fees, including any extra claim, extension, or petition fees, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully submits that Zwart suffers from the same deficiency as noted above with regard to Feder, i.e., Zwart does not disclose or reasonably suggest a pulverization technique in which the polymer-clay mixture is in the presence of cooling sufficient to maintain the mixture in the solid state during the pulverization. The milling operation conditions employed by Zwart to evaporate volatiles of the liquid color system appear to be more extreme than those described in Feder, which did not have to concern itself with elevating temperature to evaporate volatiles. In view of Feder's disclosure that its process causes melting of the polymeric particle surfaces, it follows that the harsher operating conditions disclosed in Zwart for evaporating volatiles would similarly cause melting of the polymeric particle surfaces.

The specification of the present patent application provides inventive and comparative examples demonstrating that solid state pulverization enhances the degree to which the clay is exfoliated. Zwart is silent as to this advantage. Pinnavaia does not overcome the deficiencies of Zwart. For these reasons, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 1, and claims 3-5 which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn.

If, after reviewing the above, the Examiner believes any issues remain unresolved, the favor of an Examiner interview is requested and the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule the same.

Respectfully submitted,


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